

Minutes of the January 4 Ice Park Advisory Team Meeting

The Ice Park Advisory Team held its regular Winter meeting on January 4, 2023 from 7 - 9 pm at Citizens State Bank in Ouray, attended by Kristin Arnold, Tres Barbatelli, Katie Beringer, Kitty Calhoun, Silas Clarke, Nate Disser, Tim Foulkes, Tamara Gulde, John Hulburd, Mark Iuppenlatz, Sheldon Kerr, Grant Kleeves, Bill Leo, Micah Lewkowitz, Andres Marin, Dolgio Nergui, Peter O'Neil, Pat Ormond, Chad Peele, Frank Robertson, and Jay Smith. Kitty and Nate, please forward to Chad and Jay, copying me so I can add them to distribution – thanks.

Agenda:

Our Expanding Community	Frank
Updates / Plans	Peter, Tim, Tres
Input on Management Agreement	All
User Fee Study Working Group	John
Clinics	Peter
Improving Communications	Peter

Dolgio Nergui is our newest IPAT at-large member, and Frank will work with the City to get a call out for letters of interest in the other open seat.

Peter gave us an update on Our Water Our Future, where we now have the 6" HDPE main supply line buried from the pumping site on Canyon Creek just above the confluence to just above the Powder House, waiting for further work come spring. We have raised about \$900K of what looks to now be a \$1.4M capital improvement for the City's water portfolio. We are already at 500+ members, up from less than 300 all last season, thanks to a full-court press by Staff and a really cool video with Kitty; the effectiveness of our early access incentive trial will be analyzed once we get all the data.

The Park opened with almost 200 routes this year, fatter than in recent memory, if a bit fragile until – wait for it – it warmed up a bit. With all that capacity, opening weekend through the holidays was blissfully un-crowded. Lots of infrastructure projects are continuing, with new signage, trails, and canyon access points providing much improved visitor traffic flow. More great work by Staff!

All In Ice Fest, January 6-8, has over 100 participants, more than twice the turn-out last year, bringing folks of diverse backgrounds from communities all over the country. Talks, panels, shows, and socializing are bringing together people who in many case have not previously had the opportunity to ice climb. The Ouray Ice Fest is January 19-22, and promises yet another amazing gathering of the tribe.

Dolgio walked us through her input on the current Management Agreement, adding to that from a half-dozen attended at the October meeting (everyone was copied on her ideas). Some of the items can be readily addressed with cross-references and clarifying language, while some will require legal consultation. Silas let us know the Work Session to begin discussions with City Council will be on January 17 around 3:45.

John reported on the first meeting of the Recreational User Fee Working Group, which has defined a broad set of issues that must be considered to understand the implications of charging everyone to use the Park. The group will meet again February 1 and further updates will be brought to the IPAT. Once the group completes its study, it will report formally to the IPAT, where further discussion may lead to recommendations to the City and OIPI.

Peter clarified that OIPI does not set clinic pricing, which is entirely up to the local CGOs offering them; OIPI gets \$40 per participant in revenue sharing. Katie got a shout-out for handling the coordination among the CGOs and registration – thanks! Peter also described how the reliance on word of mouth and knowing about the soft open for locals the day before Opening Day just doesn't work as our community expands. To those who were not made aware, our apologies, and we will work with Ouray Climbers Alliance to get a comprehensive locals email distribution together.

Timmy gave a heart-felt thank-you to everyone to close the meeting; this group is essential to making the Park happen.

Next meeting is April 5.